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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: COFFEE BEVERAGE SYSTEM, COFFEE BREWING APPARATUS, COFFEE BEAN PACKAGING CARTRIDGE AND METHOD FOR PREPARING A COFFEE BEVERAGE

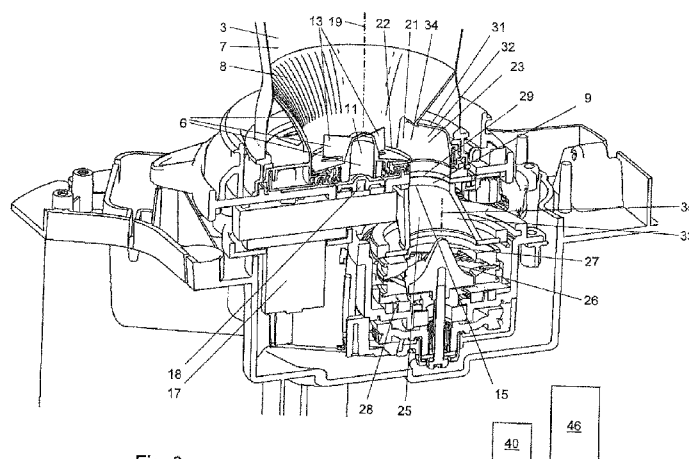


Fig. 3

(57) Abstract: A coffee beverage system is described including a coffee bean packaging cartridge and a coffee brewing apparatus. The coffee beans packaging cartridge includes a container holding coffee beans and transportation means adapted for enabling transportation of the coffee beans towards an exit opening of the cartridge. The coffee apparatus comprises a grinder for grinding the coffee beans from the cartridge and a brewing device for brewing coffee on the basis of ground coffee obtained by means of the grinder. The system is further provided with a metering chamber for receiving coffee beans which are transported with the aid of the transportation means into the metering chamber. In use the metering chamber will hold a predetermined amount of coffee beans. The metering chamber comprises a bottom portion which forms a part of the grinder, said bottom portion being arranged in the coffee apparatus for rotating around an axis extending in a vertical direction.

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- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/NL2011/050109

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A47J31/42 A47J42/50 A47J31/40
ADD.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
A47J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P	US 2010/080886 A1 (HOURIZADEH RICHARD [US]) 1 April 2010 (2010-04-01) figures 4,5,9-11 -----	1,81,138
X	DE 203 00 933 U1 (WIK FAR EAST LTD [HK]) 27 May 2004 (2004-05-27) figures 2,3 -----	1,81,138
X	EP 1 700 549 A1 (SAECO IPR LTD [IE]) 13 September 2006 (2006-09-13) figure 1 -----	1,81,138
A	EP 0 452 214 A1 (GROUARD FRERES [FR]) BONNET SA [FR]) 16 October 1991 (1991-10-16) figures 1-4 ----- -/--	1,81,138



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 June 2011

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/NL2011/050109

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 2-80, 82-137, 139
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
1-121, 138, 139

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/NL2011/050109

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 632 449 A (SANDOLO RAFFAEL [US]) 27 May 1997 (1997-05-27) figures 2,3 -----	1,81,138
A	EP 0 804 894 A2 (GRINDMASTER CORP [US] GRINDMASTER CORP) 5 November 1997 (1997-11-05) cited in the application figures 1-8,14 -----	1,81,138

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/NL2011/050109

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2010080886	A1	01-04-2010	NONE
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			CN 2684713 Y 16-03-2005
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			US 5632449 A 27-05-1997
EP 0804894	A2	05-11-1997	NONE

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-121, 138, 139

Coffee beverage system and coffee bean packaging cartridge, wherein the system comprises a metering chamber with a bottom portion which forms a part of the grinder, said bottom portion being arranged in the coffee brewing apparatus for rotating around a first axis extending in a vertical direction wherein the system is arranged such that upon activation of the grinder the bottom portion is rotating around the vertical axis for transporting the coffee beans from the metering chamber into the grinder and for grinding the coffee beans.

2. claims: 122-128

Method for preparing a beverage, wherein the method comprises the following steps: in an emptying and grinding step the grinding device is activated for emptying the metering chamber and for grinding coffee beans collected in the metering chamber.

3. claims: 129-137

Method for brewing coffee wherein a cartridge filled with coffee beans is coupled to a coffee brewing apparatus, wherein by means of the coupling between the cartridge and the coffee brewing apparatus a metering chamber is formed, wherein subsequently the metering chamber is filled with coffee beans from the cartridge, the metering chamber subsequently is emptied by means of activation of a grinder, wherein the coffee beans of the metering chamber are ground by the activation of the grinder and subsequently coffee is brewed with the coffee brewing apparatus based on the ground beans and heated water.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 2-80, 82-137, 139

The present application contains 139 claims. There are so many dependent claims, and they are drafted in such a way that the claims as a whole are not in compliance with the provisions of clarity and conciseness of Article 6 PCT, as they create a smoke screen in front of the skilled reader when assessing what should be the subject-matter to search. The non-compliance with the substantive provisions is to such an extent, that the search was performed taking into consideration the non-compliance in determining the extent of the search (PCT Guidelines 9.19). The extent of the search was consequently limited to claims 1, 81 and 138 which appear to comprise a reasonable definition of what is understood to be the invention for which protection is sought.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.2), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.